affected population through Employment Guarantee Scheme during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) what was the financial assistance asked for by the State Government for drought during 1985-86 and 1986-87; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the wide dissatisfaction towards meagre allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Government of Maharashtra have been sanctioned the following amounts to meet the drought situation during 1985-86 and 1986-87:

(*Rs. in crore*)

	1985-86	1986-87
Total ceiling of expenditure approved	65·56	97·24
Drinking water .	22·54	57·33
Fodder . . .	0·95	3·47
Employment Generation works . .	21·50	21·82

No amount has been sanctioned by Centre for Employment Guarantee Scheme as it is a State level scheme.

(b) The State Government had asked for central assistance of Rs. 445.88 crore for 1985-86 and Rs. 553.01 crore for 1986-87.

(c) The quantum of Central assistance is determined with reference to clearly laid down procedure and norms and is not affected by any subjective considerations. On the basis of the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief based on the findings of Central study teams, which examined the memoranda of the State Govt., according to prescribed norms, ceilings of expenditure for purposes of Central assistance were approved by the Central Government.

Loss of NCCF

735. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NCCF has incurred a loss of Rs. 10 crores, a loan of Rs. 4.50 crores and also the loss of its total invested capital of Rs. 5.50 crores due to various irregularities and malpractice committed by its employees, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) how many involved employees are facing criminal charges in courts of law and how many of them are still working in NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) According to the audited accounts, National Cooperative Consumers Federation incurred a total loss of Rs. 6.46 crores during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86. The accounts for 1986-87 (ending June, 1987) are yet to be finalised and audited. The losses have been mainly due to the overall mismanagement of the affairs of the NCCF couples with cases of irregularities and malpractices.

(b) Two employees are facing criminal trial in the court of law and are presently under suspension.

Officers involved in irregularities in distribution of sugar by NCCF, Lucknow

736. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply of Starred Question 249 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 1987 and to state:

(a) the names of the employees of NCCF involved in irregularities and charges against each of them; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of such serious involvement, they continue to be in the employment of NCCF, if so, the reasons for not suspending these officers so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) It has been reported by the NCCF that one clerk of the Lucknow Sub-Office of the NCCF was found responsible for the shortages in the stocks of sugar. Orders for recovery of the value of shortage from the employee have already been issued. The matter against the incharge Sub-Office, Lucknow, is under investigation of U.P. Police and further action would be taken on receipt of the Police investigation report.

Surplus cattle feeds

737. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Dairy Development Board has circulated a pamphlet in EEC countries claiming that India has surplus of cattle feeds contrary to the news of NCA & all other Experts;

(b) whether any action has been taken against those responsible for such false information; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban all export of animal feeds and achieve self-sufficiency in milk production and stop gift & commercial imports as proposed under Op. Flood-I & II?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) There is no organisation known as Indian Dairy Development Board and hence the question of circulating a pamphlet by it does not arise.

(c) The Export Policy of animal feeds is restricted and exports are allowed within limited ceilings. There is no proposal to stop imports of commodities under Operation Flood-III.

Amendment of Urban Land Ceiling Act

738. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 672 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1985 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering proposals for amending the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976;

(b) whether the formalities have been completed in this regard or not; and

(c) what are the details of the proposed amendment and by when it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details at this stage. It is difficult to indicate any date by which the Act is likely to be amended.

Price of Soyabean

739. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the apprehension in the minds of "Soyabean Cultivators" that the prevailing remunerative prices of soyabean are likely to crash because of the possible import of large quantity of Soyabean in near future to meet the requirements of Soyabean processors; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure that the